

## CURRENT COMMENT.

The Commissioner of Patents has decided that abandoned applications for patents are not public property and can not be examined by patent attorneys.

A DECREE winding up the Wabash receivership of General John McNulta was entered by consent of all creditors and other interested parties by Judge Gresham at Chicago on the 18th.

The French Minister of War proposes to double the army corps at Nancy and to double the railway facilities from Lille, Lyons and Besancon to the German frontier, so that 30,000 troops can reach there in three days.

The Cabinet meeting of the 15th was devoted almost exclusively to the discussion of trade relations with Mexico and the retaliatory policy as reported by Minister Ryan. It was said the Cabinet approved of Secretary Windom's proposed decision on lead ore.

A RECENT statement issued by the Treasury Department gives the value of articles of breadstuffs exported during September at \$9,874,788, a decrease of nearly \$3,000,000 as compared with September 1888. For nine months, however, the increase is nearly \$7,000,000.

The Austro-Hungarian Cabinet crisis is ended and Von Tisza's Cabinet will continue in office. Harmony has been restored through the concessions of Emperor Francis Joseph, who has agreed to the designations "Imperial Austrian Army" and "Royal Hungarian Army."

JOHN DOUGHERTY was married to the daughter of a well-to-do mechanic of Harlem, N. Y., the other day, having been taken from prison to the bride's home for the performance of the ceremony. Five minutes later he was sentenced to Sing Sing for two years for burglary.

CONSUL GADE, of Christiania, Norway, reports to the State Department that there is likely to be an increased emigration of Norwegians from Norway to the United States during the coming year. The Norwegians have nine stations and a large number of workers in Norway, and since 1852 have sent 5,000 Norwegians to Utah.

The Attorney-General has decided that the appointment of J. M. Taylor, of Illinois, in the railway mail service on April 29 was legal, even though Taylor did not take the oath until some time after the civil-service rules went over that service. The Attorney-General holds that the appointments are legal from dates when made, and not when the appointee is sworn in.

GOVERNMENT officers have seized the distillery of Freiburg & Werkum, at Lynchburg, O., on a charge of defrauding the United States by equalizing shortages in packages before the gauger measured the contents. This, it is claimed, saved to them the payment of much Government tax and being a violation of revenue laws subjected the entire property to seizure. The whisky seized amounted to more than a million gallons.

THERE are a great many fires in the marshes and prairies in the vicinity of Faribault, Minn. Fox lake, which is now a grass-grown marsh, is on fire and the peaty bottom is burning down to the clay. The burning tract comprises about one hundred acres. Fires also have been burning near Mud lake, and have burned holes in the peat five feet deep. Other fires are also burning near Faribault in marshes, woods, etc., causing great loss.

THE will of Mary J. Havemeyer, the widow of William Havemeyer, the millionaire sugar refiner, was filed for probate at New York recently. The entire estate is divided among five children. The sixth, Mrs. Agnes Josephine Burnham, is exempt from probate because "she is happily married and her position guarantees her all needed comfort and support." She is, however, permitted to select two pieces of her mother's jewelry as a token of affection.

WITH a view to checking the frequent desertions from the army, paragraph 908 of the regulations governing enlistment, has been amended so that recruits shall be detained six days after signing the declaration of intention to enlist. They will during that time be instructed in their new duties, and if at the end of that period they desire to enlist they will be sworn in, but if they should change their minds or any good objection be raised then they will be permitted to depart.

At the recent session of the National Board of Trade at Louisville, Ky., resolutions were passed opposing any modification of the Inter-State Commerce law, especially of the clause prohibiting pooling, and favoring National supervision of insurance and uniformity of insurance legislation, a reduction of Federal revenues in the way which will least embarrass industries and trade, Congress to consider plans for irrigation and reciprocity trade relations with Canada. There was energetic discussion, but on final vote very little opposition to these resolutions.

## NEWS OF THE WEEK.

Gleaned by Telegraph and Mail.

## PERSONAL AND POLITICAL.

ITALY desires a protectorate over Abyssinia.

At the Interior Department it is thought that 20,000 Indians will be entitled to vote at the next Presidential election as a result of recent legislation. Politicians consider them a very uncertain factor.

GILBERT L. LAWS has been nominated by the Republicans to succeed the late Mr. Laird, Congressman from the Second Nebraska district.

The new British Minister, accompanied by Lady Pauncefoot, arrived at Washington on the 15th.

The President has signed his intention to be present at the laying of the corner stone of the new Catholic University at Brook Station, Md.

SIR DANIEL GOUGH, the noted British civil engineer, died in London recently aged seventy-four.

THE Republican caucus at Pierre, S. D., selected Frank Pettigrew, of Sioux Falls, and Judge G. C. Moody, of Deadwood, for United States Senators.

CONGRESSMAN NEWTON A. TUTTING died at his home in Oswego, N. Y., on the 15th.

EX-GOVERNOR E. A. PERRY, of Florida, died recently in Texas.

The Royal Legion met at Philadelphia on the 16th, when ex-President Hayes was re-elected Commander-in-Chief.

It is believed that the African explorer Monk has been killed by his men on the Zambesi river.

ELBERT E. KIMBALL, United States District Attorney, died at Kansas City, Mo., on the 16th of congestive chills.

THE death of General John F. Hartnaff makes a vacancy in the Cherokee Commission, and nothing more can be done now toward securing the Cherokee Strip in the Indian Territory for settlement until the vacancy is filled.

GERMANY has publicly announced her refusal to recognize Mutasaf as King of Samarra.

OLIVER C. BORRISSELL has been appointed superintendent of the mint at Philadelphia.

SENATORS Moody and Pettigrew have been formally declared elected by the South Dakota Legislature.

AMOS J. CUMMINGS, the well-known correspondent and member of the editorial staff of the New York Sun, has been nominated by Tammany to fill the vacancy in the Ninth district caused by the death of "Sunset" Cox.

The President has appointed Richard E. Sloan, of Arizona, to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of Arizona.

It is announced that Mr. Gladstone will deliver an address at Manchester on December 3. It is expected that he will issue a manifesto on the political situation in the United Kingdom.

GENERAL HARTRANFT, ex-Governor of Pennsylvania, died at Norristown on the 17th from a combination of kidney troubles.

REAR ADMIRAL WALKER expects to sail with his squadron some time in November. He will proceed first to Lisbon and thence to Fayal.

PRINCE FERDINAND, of Bulgaria, it was reported, traveled strictly incognito during his recent visit to the Paris Exposition, fearing that attempts would be made on his life.

MAGGIE MITCHELL, the actress, has married her manager, Charles Abbott.

## MISCELLANEOUS.

CAMDEN, O., was badly damaged by fire on the 16th.

The mission creek country in Minnesota was ravaged by fires. Much lumber was burned.

G. B. SQUIRES, of Brooklyn, N. Y., special agent of the General Land-office, has been dismissed. Squires was formerly private secretary to Pension Commissioner Tanner.

The International Maritime conference met at Washington on the 16th. The delegates were cordially welcomed by Secretary Blaine.

An explosion occurred in a Staffordshire (England) colliery on the 15th. Seventy-five miners were entombed. The first searching parties found sixty dead bodies.

The State of Kansas has been awarded a gold medal for the best agricultural report, also a silver medal for its labor report. "Honorable mention" was awarded to the Conway Springs and Douglas Sugar Companies.

WILLIAM DRAPER and John Olsen were hanged at Placerville, Cal., on the 16th for the murder of John Lowell on his ranch March, 1888. John Myers was hanged last November for the same crime, his two accomplices escaping for a time by taking an appeal.

The accident on the Mount Auburn inclined plane at Cincinnati was caused by a little piece of iron which got wedged in the cut-off valve.

FEARS are expressed that the tour of the Pan-American delegates has been overdone, many of them being positively worn out of the rushing from town to town and the endless sight-seeing.

A BOSTON dispatch says the entire plant of the Brush Electric Company has been sold to the Thomson-Houston Electric Company for a cash consideration of \$1,250,000.

The reported railroad collision in Colorado between Burlington and Union Pacific passenger trains was found to be false.

The Long Ho! or Red river of China has been opened to commerce.

In the railway station at Brussels, Belgium, the other day, a passenger train dashed into buffers at full speed, wrecking several carriages and injuring thirty persons.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers met at Denver, Col., on the 16th.

By a collision between a car left on the track at Heath, Ind., and a freight train the other morning many cars were wrecked, one man was killed and several others were injured.

THREE cases of small-pox were reported in Boston recently, the first in over a year.

The Missouri Pacific road announces that it will quote established rates between Chicago and Kansas City in connection with the Illinois Central and Vandalia. This opens another line between Chicago and Kansas City, making eight in all.

The Atlas line steamship Athos, which has reached New York after a terrible voyage, reports that Hippolyte, of Hayti, was busy preparing for his election.

The people of Indianapolis are refusing to pay for rides on the street cars which have dropped the conductors and put back the old box system.

The North Alabama Lumber Company at Bridgeport, Ala., has made an assignment. Liabilities, \$120,000; assets scheduled, \$140,000.

News has reached Constantinople that Turkish soldiers have continued at Canoe, lately beating many of their officers, who endeavored to discipline them.

## KANSAS STATE NEWS.

PAUL HERON was shot dead at Norton the other morning by Willie Rhodes. They were friends and the killing occurred while both were intoxicated.

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The convention was a very interesting one and the following officers were elected: President, Mansford Schoonover, Garnett; first vice-president, W. H. Howell, Baker University; second vice-president, B. Hobbs, Kansas City, Kan.; secretary, W. W. Bowman, Concordia; assistant secretary, S. W. Naylor, Washburn College; assistant press secretary, A. L. Ackley, State University.

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A. H. BENDER, an old gentleman of eighty-five years, residing five miles northeast of Lawrence, was thrown from his wagon the other evening and injured so seriously that he died the following day.

The State Board of Railroad Commissioners recently made an inspection of the Southern Kansas division of the Santa Fe road from Holliday to Winfield and notified the officers of the company that the track from Holliday to Ottawa was in a very unsatisfactory condition, and at other points the rails were badly worn.

At the recent biennial session of the Grand Legion of the Knights of A. O. U. W., held at Emporia, the following officers were chosen: Grand commander, T. A. Alden, of Atchison; grand vice-commander, J. A. Hensell, McPherson; grand lieutenant-commander, S. D. Hallowell, Wichita; grand recorder, E. M. Ford, Emporia; grand treasurer, A. J. Hinton, Topeka; grand standard bearer, R. P. Ray, Topeka; grand senior workman, W. Green, Topeka; grand junior workman, Ed. Russell, Lawrence; grand guard, J. P. Duncan, Iola; grand medical examiner, J. B. Hibben, Topeka.

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## THE COMING CONGRESS.

The Tariff, Civil-Service, Trusts and Race Questions Will Occupy the Approaching Session.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21.—As members of the Fifty-first Congress reach the city gossip respecting the organization of the next House of Representatives naturally increases. The consensus of opinion among members-elect now here indicates that the Speakership will go either to Maine, Mr. Reed, or Ohio, Mr. McKinley. Messrs. Burrows, of Michigan, and Cannon, of Illinois, are both on the ground, however, and it is said will at least make the contest interesting before balloting begins. At this time it would be a very difficult undertaking to pick out the strongest candidate.

Major John Carson, of the Philadelphia Ledger, appears to have already practically captured the clerkship of the next House. In his modest way he has been working all summer, and it is claimed by his friends that he has pledged sufficient to elect on the first ballot.

Colonel Swords appears to have no rival for the position of sergeant-at-arms, while there are several candidates for the offices of doorkeeper and post-master.

There are not many Senators and Representatives in Washington now, but most of those here expect a very interesting and busy session of Congress during the coming winter. The tariff, trusts, the Civil-Service law, the Inter-State Commerce law, the educational question, a National election law and subsidies will be among the subjects that will engage the attention of Congress. What are recognized as the great questions of the day will for the most part be presented as party measures and are likely to render the coming session a very important one.

Senator Dolph thinks Congress will take no step backward in the matter of legislation of Inter-State Commerce or Civil-Service reform. Both the Inter-State Commerce law and the Civil-Service law, he thinks, will probably be amended, but not so as to destroy their efficiency. Wherever amendments are made to either will defer the purpose of eradicating defects disclosed by experience and to make them more effective. The race question, he says, will undoubtedly be discussed in connection with the contested election cases and independently of them. It is a live question and will not down at any bidding. He feels confident that the tariff will be revised and the source of the revenue diminished. Some measures not very dissimilar to the Senate bill will be passed. It is possible, he thinks, some bill upon the subject of trusts will be passed, but the subject must be dealt with in the main by the States. The power of Congress over this subject is so limited as to render of little value any law which it may pass to prevent or control trusts in the State.

Congressman Brown, of Indiana, thinks a revision of the revenue system the most important question awaiting the action of Congress and favors the repeal of the tax on tobacco and on alcohol used in the arts and a reduction of the tax on sugar.

Something will probably be done regarding the seal fisheries and also the Canadian fishery dispute. These questions, however, will not divide the parties. He has no doubt there will be some amendment to the Inter-State Commerce law and Congress will undoubtedly legislate on the subject of trusts, if it is possible to define a trust in such a way as not to interfere with legitimate business.

Congressman Hitt, of Illinois, thinks it rather too early to make any predictions about what Congress will do at the coming session. No conference of even the most formal kind has yet been held, so that no means of judging what other members are considering is to be had. Then, shifting of opinion on many important points is so likely that a judgment now is not very apt to hold when actual voting on questions begins in February and March. Something in the way of amendatory legislation to the Inter-State Commerce law may be expected. As to the Civil-Service law, too many Congressmen of both parties are pledged to its support to allow its repeal. The subject of trusts will probably be involved in the discussion of the tariff, which will of course come up next session.

BRIDGES AND STREAMS.

The Way Proceedings May Be Taken Against Bridges That Obstruct Navigation.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Secretary Proctor has prepared a circular of instructions respecting the practice to be followed in cases where bridges over navigable streams are said to be obstructions to commerce. When such complaint or charge is made, the chief of engineers shall refer it to the engineer officer in charge of the district in which the alleged obstruction is located. He shall make an examination to determine whether or not the bridge is an obstruction, and so whether or not it can be removed. In determining this the person or corporation controlling the bridge shall be given an opportunity to appear before the chief of engineers, who shall lay the report before the Secretary of War. The Secretary upon this report may order the officers to examine the bridge, the same routine to be followed by it as by the single officer. When this report reaches the Secretary he may hear interested parties upon the matter, granting continuances from time to time as may be proper, so that the question shall be thoroughly discussed and presented before a decision is reached.

Hopeful Harbour.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20.—Senator Barbour, of Virginia, under whose auspices the Democratic canvass in the old commonwealth is being conducted, stated that the Democrats were well satisfied with the hostile attitude of Mr. Langston toward General Mahone might operate considerably to Mahone's disadvantage; that Mahone was counting on the negroes voting the Republican ticket regardless of their feeling toward him personally and of the manner in which he might treat them. Mahone might make a miscalculation in this regard and the negroes simply bleed him and Mr. Quay.

May Stay In.

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King of Portugal Dead.

LISBON, Oct. 20.—The King of Portugal, who was ill for some time, died yesterday. The Duke of Braganza, eldest son of the King, who succeeds to the throne, will assume the title of Carlos I.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Questions of the Inter-State Commerce Commission Answered by the Kansas Railroad Board.

TOPEKA, Kan., Oct. 19.—The following letter written by the Board of Railroad Commissioners to the statisticians of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, will be interesting reading to those whose business brings them in contact with railroad companies, showing, as it does, the views of the Kansas board: